

**To:** Thomas, Deb[thomas.debrah@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Sat 8/15/2015 3:47:49 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Sample Results

I had asked Whitney to post this.

### **Draft All Hands Memo RE 8/12 Sampling Results**

In our effort to keep all Region 8 personnel informed on the latest information related to the Gold King Mine release response, I want to share updated information on sampling along the Animas River.

Water quality samples were collected beginning Aug. 5, 2015, to assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado. Samples were taken prior to the plume's arrival to establish a baseline for water quality comparisons. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.

Analysis now shows that water quality for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake has returned to pre-event water quality levels. These results are based on validated sampling data collected from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015.

EPA has shared this data with state, local and tribal officials in Colorado to assist them in their decisions regarding the on-going use of water resources. EPA plans to continue to monitor, analyze and share data for downstream river segments as it becomes available.

Additional information can be found on our website:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-colorado-data-gold-king-mine-release>

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

In addition, EPA has established a toll-free number (844-607-9700) for residents in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, and the Navajo Nation who have been impacted by the Gold King Mine release. This allows them to provide their contact information and be called back with information. The number is available for people to speak to someone in English, Spanish, and Navajo.

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**From:** Thomas, Deb

**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:17 AM

**To:** Russo, Rebecca

**Cc:** Card, Joan

**Subject:** Re: Water Quality Sample Results

Rebecca,

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Deb

On Aug 15, 2015, at 6:19 AM, Card, Joan <[Card.Joan@epa.gov](mailto:Card.Joan@epa.gov)> wrote:

Please work with Deb on the internal communication. I suggest trying to vet any original R8 statements with OPA. or just avoid original statements if possible. Thanks.

Joan Card

Senior Policy Advisor

Region 8

Sent from my EPA iPhone

On Aug 14, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Russo, Rebecca <[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Joan,

I know you have a lot on your plate, so I apologize for the duplication, but I am resending some emails for your consideration.

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Thanks,

Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**From:** Russo, Rebecca

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:05 PM

**To:** Card, Joan

**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Sample Results

# **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

Thank you.

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**Draft All Hands Memo RE 8/12 Sampling Results**

# **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

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Additional information can be found on our website:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-colorado-data-gold-king-mine-release>

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

In addition, EPA has established a toll-free number (844-607-9700) for residents in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, and the Navajo Nation who have been impacted by the Gold King Mine release. This allows them to provide their contact information and be called back with information. The number is available for people to speak to someone in English, Spanish, and Navajo.

Public interest is high and we've been getting a lot of questions from the public about the mine response. The most up-to-date information is available on our website, which I encourage you to share with those requesting information:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

The following language may also be useful to those who need to communicate with the public:

EPA is working diligently to address the Gold King Mine release and help affected communities. Our mission is to protect human health and the environment and we want to assure you that we are working with our partners to expedite the review of data and return to normalcy in terms of using these rivers.

We are also committed to understanding what happened in this event and to learn from it. We have ceased field investigation work at mines unless there is imminent risk and

are also initiating an independent assessment to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites.

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA-Region 8

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Denver, CO 80202

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Fax: 303-312-6961

**From:** Russo, Rebecca

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:42 AM

**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn

**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Sample Results

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 7:33 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Deb  
**Cc:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** Fwd: Water Quality Sample Results

Hi Deb,

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Rebecca

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Russo, Rebecca" <[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 12, 2015 at 11:59:07 PM MDT  
**Subject:** Water Quality Sample Results

Hi all,

Please find below an update on water quality samples for August 12, 2015.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, water quality samples were collected at numerous intervals beginning on Aug. 5, 2015. Samples were taken prior to the plume's arrival to establish a baseline for water quality comparisons. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.

Analysis now shows that water quality for the Animas River from the Silverton,

Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake has returned to pre-event water quality levels. These results are based on validated sampling data collected from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015.

EPA has shared this data with state, local and tribal officials in Colorado to assist them in their decisions regarding the on-going use of water resources. EPA plans to continue to monitor, analyze and share data for downstream river segments as it becomes available.

The data tables can be found on our website:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-colorado-data-gold-king-mine-release>

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

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